

Chico

**Golden
Empire
Amateur
Radio
Society, Inc.**

www.gears-w6rhc.org

"Dedicated to Public Service"

THE RADIATOR

W6RHC
IRLP #8170

P.O. Box 202 Chico, CA 95927

September 2022 Newsletter

GEARS Founded August 13, 1939

GEARS News

At the August GEARS meeting, Michael Favor N6FAV gave an excellent presentation on baluns, we also had a presentation on QSL cards and emergency preparedness. The QSL cards were collected by Bill Goddard W6AKQ. Bill was a GEARS member in the '80s and '90s and passed away in 1997. The Monday night meeting time seems to be working out well. We plan to continue meetings at the Chico Public Library with the next meeting on September 19th.

We are always looking for ideas or suggestions for GEARS meeting topics. We are open to guest speakers too. If you or you know someone has something to share with the club please let us know.

We have a new location for VEC Testing; The Chico Elks Lodge. Stephen McDermott K6AKF made the arrangements and it worked out very well. Next VEC Testing is on October 2nd. Contact Tom Rider, W6JS 530-514-9211 for more information.

The GEARS Forrest Ranch repeater was down for one day due to a blown solar charger controller. Michael Favor N6FAV made a temporary repair to put it back on the air. He plans to replace the part in a few days.

OARS will be hosting the annual Steak Bake this year. The activities will be held at Hammond Park in Oroville on September 10th. From 1pm to 5pm. Please RSVP, including the number of items (steak, hamburger, hot dog) Please RSVP to: w7xz@comcast.net The price for each has not yet been set, but one can expect about \$10, plus or minus, for each steak; hamburgers and hot dogs about a dollar less. This is a great activity and fun time for radio talk or whatever talk you choose with like minded individuals. This is a great way the different clubs can come together and support each other.

Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is October 15th. This was a lot of fun last year, so save this date and come on out if you can. Location to be announced.

Don't forget breakfast Saturday September 10, 9:00am at the Farmer's Skillet.

'73

Jim Matthews K6EST
jiminchico@yahoo.com

September 2022 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30pm Simplex Net	2	3
4 8pm OARS Net	5 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	6 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm GEARS Net	7	8 7:30pm Simplex Net	9 7pm OARS meeting 7pm GARS meeting	10 9am Chico Breakfast 1pm Steakbake
11 8pm OARS Net	12 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	13 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm GEARS Net	14	15 7:30pm Simplex Net	16 6pm GEARS Meeting	17
18 8pm OARS Net	19 6pm GEARS Meeting 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	20 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm GEARS Net	21	22 7:30pm Simplex Net	23	24 9am OARS Breakfast
25 8pm OARS Net	26 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	27 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm GEARS Net	28	29 7:30pm Simplex Net	30	

VEC Testing, FCC License Exam available by appointment. For information or registration call Tom Rider, W6JS 530-514-9211

Chico Breakfast 2nd Saturday 9am Farmers Skillet Cohasset Rd, Chico

GEARS Board Meeting 1st Monday 7pm by zoom.

PARS Meeting 2nd Thursday 6:30pm, doors open 6pm Old Magalia Community Resource Center

OARS Meeting Second Friday of the month, St. Pauls Episcopal Church Hall, Oroville.

GARS Meeting Second Friday of the month, Lutheran Church Hall, Artois.

Butte ARES Meeting 3rd Tuesday, TBD Contact Dale Anderson, KK6EVX 826-3461

GEARS Meeting, August 22 Doors open 6pm, meeting 7pm at Chico Public Library, 1108 Sherman Ave, Chico

OARS Breakfast 4th Saturday of the month, at Cornucopia of Oroville.

NETS:

OARS Club Net Sunday 8pm 146.655 Mhz - PL 136.5

GARS Club Net Monday, 7:00 pm 147.105 MHz + PL 110.09, secondary: 146.850 MHz-PL 110.9

Butte ARES Net Mondays 8pm 145.290 MHz - PL 110.9

Yuba Sutter Club Net Monday 7pm 146.085 MHz + PL 127.3

GEARS Club Net Tuesdays 7:30 PM 146.850 MHz - PL 110.9

PARS Club Net Tuesday 7pm 145.290 - PL 110.9

Simplex Net Thursday 7:30 p.m. 146.52 no tone

Yuba Sutter ARES Net Thursdays 7pm 146.085 MHz + PL 127.3

Sacramento Valley Traffic Net Nightly 9:00 PM 146.850 MHz - PL 110.9

Ham Radio Books for Beginners

By Jim Matthews K6EST

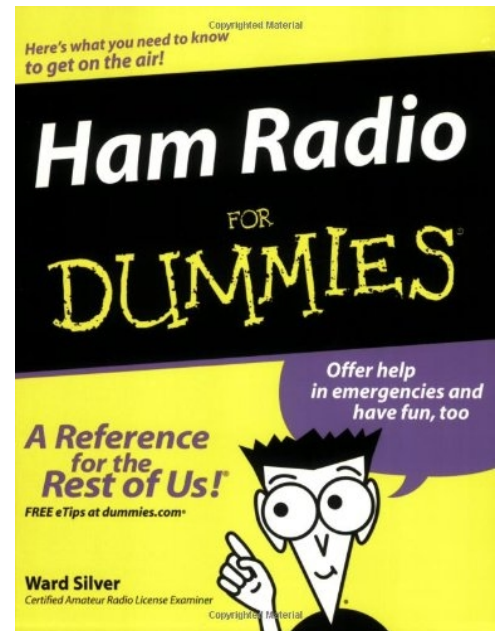
Ham radio can be a little confusing for the beginner. There are hundreds of books, articles and videos that claim to get you started, so which ones to choose?

Here are two books I usually recommend:

Ham Radio For Dummies by H. Ward Silver, NØAX who is a contributing editor for QST and the ARRL.

This book explains Amateur radio basics in simple easy to understand language. However there is also advanced information too.

You can buy the newest edition or pick up used editions. Any one of them will help.

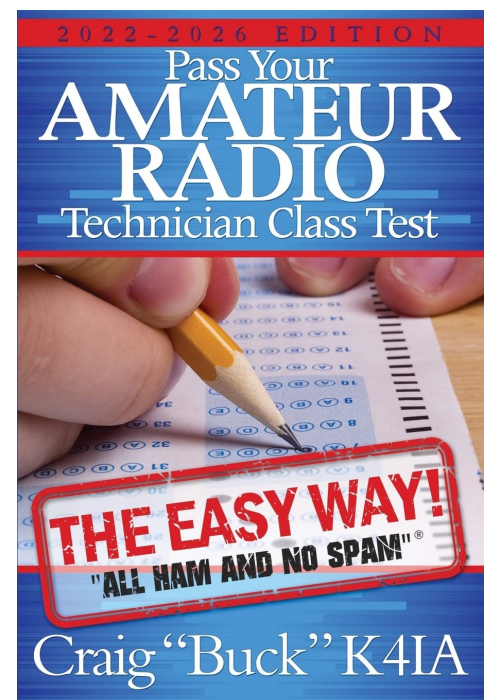


Then to get your license, this is a basic study guide:

Technician Class: Pass Your Amateur Radio Technician Class Test - The Easy Way by Craig Buck K4IA. Be sure to get the edition for the current test.

This book simplifies the test by giving the all the questions in the current test bank and the correct answer. You can't get simpler than that. Read it completely several times and you should be ready for the test.

There are also editions for General and Extra license exams.



Amateur Radio Microwave Active on Saint John Mountain

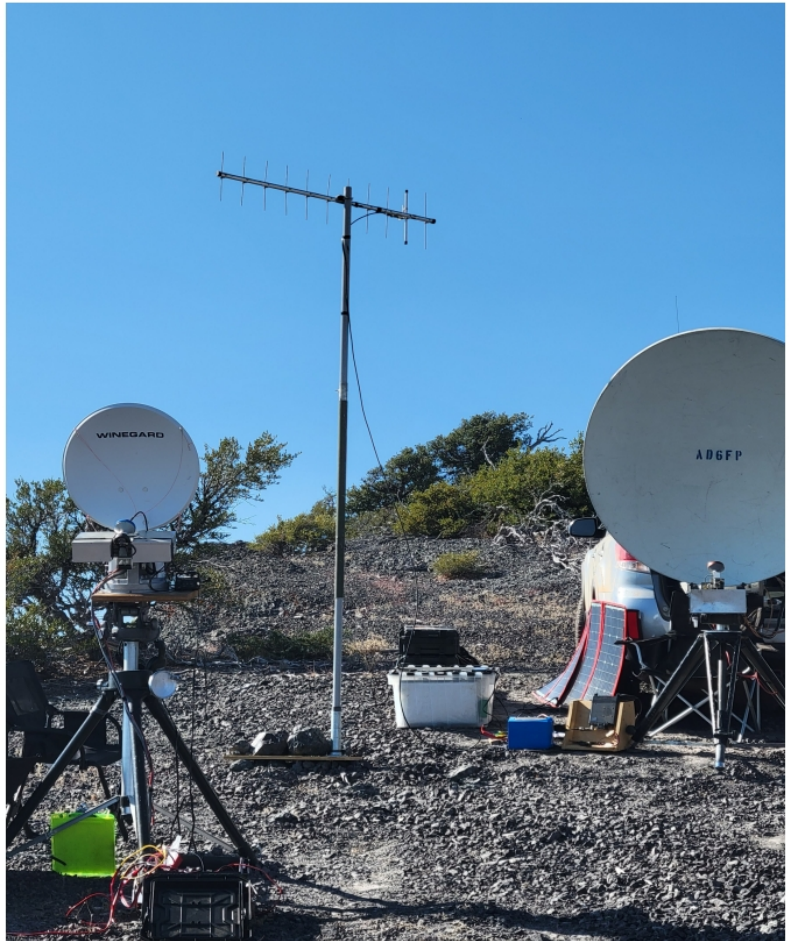
By Michael A. Ellithorpe, KF6OBI President, GARS

On our 20 August 2022 trip to the repeater site on Saint John Mountain KN6NGE, N6UTV, and KF6OBI were somewhat surprised to find a portable Amateur Radio Microwave station set up just before the last ascent on to the ridge. This site is about one quarter mile below the repeater site and has about a 270 degree view east south east. When standing on this site we then realized this would be a perfect spot for many Amateur radio modes to work from.

On our way up the ridge we made a momentary stop to say Hi, exchange call signs, and some pleasantries. Then on to the repeater site to commence our daily work plan. On our return trip, after a frustrating day on the ridge, KN6NGE and KF6OBI made a 20 minute stop to check out what was going on; to learn more. There were now two Amateur Radio Microwave sets setup, and it was late in the day, about 5pm. Gary, K6MG; and Andreas, N6NU; were at it making SSB, Digital, and maybe some CW contacts via their portable Microwave stations. After talking to them they informed us that they were participating in the ARRL 19 GHz and Up contest weekend and had plans to stay the night on this portion of the ridge. They had activated grid square CM89pk for this contest and by all accounts were doing well.



^ On the left is Andreas, N6NU; and on the right is Gary, K6MG; taking a break from the action...



Both K6MG and N6NU are members of the 50 MHz and Up Group of Northern California. For more information about this group you can go to their web site at <https://www.50mhzandup.org/>.

Both KN6NGE and KF6OBI wish we had more time to spend watching and listening to their action on the Microwave bands about 10 GHz. But we needed to get back to the valley floor and back to our QTH's, for a much need rest.

EMCOMM: ITU/NATO Phonetic Alphabet and Numbers

By Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ

Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel, India, Juliett, Kilo, Lima, Mike, November, Oscar, Papa, Quebec, Romeo, Sierra, Tango, Uniform, Victor, Whiskey, X-ray, Yankee, Zulu. Numbers are mostly pronounced as normal, except often 9 is pronounced “Niner” so it doesn’t get confused with 5.

The use of ITU (International Telecommunications Union), or NATO, phonetics in both tactical and formal message traffic handling is essential for accurate and efficient communications. From the beginning of radiotelephone communications, several different phonetic alphabets have been used. During WWII, the United States used one version, while the British used another. Other countries had a different phonetic alphabet than either of those allies. In 1956, the ITU adopted the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) phonetic alphabet. Today it is the worldwide standard for military, civilian aeronautical, and maritime use, search and rescue groups, public safety, and the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL).

The NATO phonetic alphabet is the universally adopted spelling alphabet, or code, used to clearly and precisely communicate words or letters both within the same language and across languages. It is important for both speech perception and word recognition, Meghan Sumner, a linguistics professor at Stanford University, tells Popular Mechanics.

“Many sounds are highly confusable within a language,” Sumner says. For example, the sounds “th” and “f” are very similar (thin, fin) and easy to confuse, as are “m” and “n” sounds, she explains. “Especially in contexts that are noisy or when you can’t see the talker,” such as over a radio with background noise or interference. The NATO phonetic alphabet helps avoid ambiguity and makes it clear what the letters are, she says.

Several letter codes and abbreviations using the spelling alphabet have become well-known, such as Bravo Zulu (BZ) for “well done,” Checkpoint Charlie (Checkpoint C) in Berlin, and Zulu Time for Greenwich Mean Time or Coordinated Universal Time. During the Vietnam War, the United States government referred to the Viet Cong guerrillas and the group itself as VC, or Victor Charlie. The name “Charlie” became synonymous with this group.

Letter	Word	Pronounced as
A	Alfa	AL FAH
B	Bravo	BRAH VOH
C	Charlie	CHAR LEE or SHAR LEE
D	Delta	DELL TAH
E	Echo	ECK OH
F	Foxtrot	FOKS TROT
G	Golf	GOLF
H	Hotel	HOH TELL
I	India	IN DEE AH
J	Juliett	JEW LEE ETT
K	Kilo	KEY LOH
L	Lima	LEE MAH
M	Mike	MIKE
N	November	NO VEM BER
O	Oscar	OSS CAH
P	Papa	PAH PAH
Q	Quebec	KEH BECK
R	Romeo	ROW ME OH
S	Sierra	SEE AIR RAH
T	Tango	TANG GO
U	Uniform	YOU NEE FORM or OO NEE FORM
V	Victor	VIK TAH
W	Whiskey	WISS KEY
X	X-ray	ECKS RAY
Y	Yankee	YANG KEY
Z	Zulu	ZOO LOO

GEARS Century Members

Dale Anderson, Kent Hastings,
Bennett Laskey, Jim Van Sickle

We thank these members for their extra support.

GEARS Officers:

President.....Paul Stewart, N6PAS
Vice-President.....Kent Hastings, WA6ZFY
Secretary.....Steven Wright, KM6DBS
Treasurer.....Jim Matthews, K6EST
Director.....Bennett Laskey, K6CEL
Director.....Dale Anderson, KK6EVX
Director.....Rich Astley, N3UOR
Past President.....Jim Matthews, K6EST
VEC.....Tom Rider, W6JS
ARES.....Dale Anderson, KK6EVX

GEARS Dues and Donations can be made online at
[paypal.me/w6rhc](https://www.paypal.me/w6rhc)

Or by mail to:
GEARS
PO Box 202
Chico, CA 95927

Your dues and contributions support our local repeaters, ARES, and outreach events to keep amateur radio alive in our area. GEARS also makes donations to support other local repeaters.

Follow GEARS on Facebook
www.facebook.com

GEARS Newsletter edited by Jim Matthews
K6EST
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2022 SteakBake

Hosted By: Oroville Amateur Radio Society – OARS

September 10th, 2022 From 1PM – 5PM

LOCATION: HAMMON PARK In Oroville

(BEHIND HOME DEPOT)

BETWEEN GRAND AVE. & NELSON AVE.

OFF 2ND STREET TO HAMMON PARK

Talk-In 146.52

Drawing for \$300 Gift Cert to HRO

Fox Hunt

RSVP: JIM (W7XZ)

W7XZ@COMCAST.NET

OR CALL (530) 533-6987

